To tell if concrete is sealed with an acrylic sealer, perform the **xylene test**. Rub a small, hidden patch with a xylene-soaked rag or roller for 30 seconds. If the surface becomes sticky or tacky, it is an acrylic sealer (solvent-based acrylics turn completely soft or liquid, while water-based acrylics soften slightly or show a dull rejuvenation). YouTube · FoundationArmor

Visual and Physical Signs of Acrylic

Acrylic sealers are film-forming products, meaning they sit as a visible layer on top of the concrete rather than soaking entirely into the pores. W. R. Meadows +1

- **Sheen:** They usually feature a satin, semi-gloss, or high-gloss finish that gives the concrete a slightly wet or polished look. W. R. Meadows
- **Peeling or Flaking:** Because they form a surface skin, old or failing acrylic sealers tend to blush (turn white/milky from trapped moisture), flake, or peel off in small chips under heavy wear.
- **Water Test:** Poured water beads up on top and does not darken or penetrate the concrete, but this only proves *a* sealer is present, not specifically acrylic. YouTube · Deco-Crete TV +2

The Xylene Solvent Test

Xylene reacts uniquely with acrylic resins compared to other sealers like siloxanes, epoxies, or urethanes. YouTube · FoundationAr... +2

- **Solvent-Based Acrylic:** The surface will quickly turn sticky, tacky, or dissolve back into a liquid state when rubbed with xylene. YouTube · FoundationArmor
- **Water-Based Acrylic:** Xylene may soften it or make it look temporarily darker/rejuvenated, but it will not become deeply sticky or gummy. YouTube · FoundationArmor
- **Non-Acrylic (Penetrating or Epoxy):** Xylene will have zero softening or tacky effect on penetrating silane/siloxane sealers or fully cured structural epoxies.

To see a demonstration of how a solvent-reaction test distinguishes sealer types, you can watch this guide on the Xylene Test for Acrylic Sealers.